

Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 24 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. CHINA

WSJ ITEM REPORTS MANSFIELD TRIP TO PEKING HAS RUN INTO UNEXPECTED DELAY. EN ROUTE, SEN WAS STOPPED IN SHANGHAI, SENT SIGHTSEEING. ITEM CITES REPORTS THAT SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING UNDERWAY IN PEKING -- CHINESE MAY BE SORTING OUT POST-MAO POL SITUATION, KEEPING HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS AWAY FOR NOW.

AFP (PEKING) NOTES CAPITAL STILL IN MOURNING FOR MAO -- NEARLY EVERYONE STILL WEARING BLACK ARMBAND; NCNA DAILY BULLETIN FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES BORDERED IN BLACK; FLAGS UNCLASSIFIED

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OVER PRIVATE BUILDINGS/APARTMENT BLOCKS STILL AT HALF-STAFF; THURS PEOPLE'S DAILY FILLED WITH REPORTS ON PROVINCIAL MEETINGS MARKING CHAIRMAN'S DEATH; DIPLOMATS HAVE BEEN ADVISED NOT EXPECT NATIONAL DAY BANQUET. WHILE

CHINESE DESCRIBE CONTINUING EVIDENCE OF GRIEF AS "SPONTANEOUS SIGN" OF PEOPLE'S SADNESS, PEKING DIPLOMATS SPECULATE THAT UNOFFICIAL MONTH OF MOURNING MAY HAVE BEEN DECREED; THIS WOULD BE IN LINE WITH CHINESE TRADITION, ACCORDING OBSERVERS. MANY FOREIGN OBSERVERS EXPECT NO STATEMENT ABOUT MAO'S BODY UNTIL NATIONAL DAY OBSERVANCE, AT EARLIEST (WP).

ROC DEFMIN KAO SAID FRIDAY THAT TAIWAN IS STEPPING UP PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE AGAINST PEKING, IN WAKE OF MAO'S DEATH. DECLARED PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS, OTHER MATERIAL AIMED AT DISARMING MAINLAND CHINESE PSYCHOLOGICALLY, BEING SENT PRC BY AIR/SEA. SAID MOST EFFECTIVE DELIVERY FORM HAS BEEN HIGH-ALTITUDE BALLOONS, WHICH COULD REACH PRACTICALLY EVERY CORNER MAINLAND (REUTER TAIPEI).

2. INDOCHINA

VN WILL ASSUME SVN CAPITAL STOCKHOLDING/LOAN OBLIGATIONS IN ADB (AP, NYT). VN GAINING ADB SEAT NO SURPRISE, BUT MARKS VICTORY FOR HANOI IN EFFORTS GAIN ACCESS TO AID-GIVING INSTITUTIONS. MOVE PUTS US IN TICKLISH POSITION, SINCE STILL MAINTAINS TRADE EMBARGO AGAINST VN, WHILE SOME CONGRESSMEN COMPLAIN US HASN'T ENOUGH CONTROL OVER FOREIGN AID CONTRIBUTIONS CHanneled THRU MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS (WSJ).

3. INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

NGUYEN CAO KY NOW LIVES IN CALIF, SAYS WILL GO INTO RESTAURANT BUSINESS (NYDN; PHINQ); GIVES UP IDEA OF COMMUNAL FARM FOR VIET REFUGEES (PHINQ).

4. THAILAND

SENI DECIDED ACCEPT INVITATION FRIDAY BECOME PM LESS THAN 24 HRS AFTER RESIGNED. PLEDGED SOME CHANGES IN UNCLASSIFIED

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GOVT, CABINET RESHUFFLE (REUTER BANGKOK).

WIDE COVERAGE GIVEN SENI RESIGNATION THURS AMID CRITICISM KITTAKACHORN RETURN (WSJ), ACCUSATIONS GOVT WEAK/INDECISIVE (PHINQ CHITRIB; UPI, BALTO N-A 9/23). NATIONWIDE MIL ALERT WAS ORDERED TO PREVENT VIOLENCE (CSM). KITTAKACHORN APPEARED ON STREET IN MONK'S GARB WITH BEGGING BOWL (PHINQ). SENI RESIGNATION UNEXPECTED (AP, NYT). KING HAD ACCEPTED SENI'S RESIGNATION. SENI THEN MET WITH PARTY MEMBERS, WHO ASKED HIM SERVE AS PM IN NEXT GOVT IN WHICH DEMOCRATS WILL SERVE AS COALITION CORE (UPI, NYT).

ISAACS (SUN) SAW WEAK LEADERSHIP, POL FRAGMENTATION, STUDENT VIOLENCE, SOCIAL UNREST UNDERLYING SENI CRISIS, THO IMMEDIATE ISSUE THAT CAUSED RESIGNATION WAS KITTIKACHORN RETURN. SAW NO NATIONALLY-KNOWN FIGURE WHO COULD STEP INTO SENI'S PLACE; POLITICIANS WHO WOULD

FORM NEW GOVT NOT HELD IN HIGH REPUTE. EADS (WP) SAID RESIGNATION CAME AFTER WEEKS' MOUNTING CRITICISM. NOTED SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE PRAPHAS/KITTIKACHORN RETURNS ENGINEERED BY RIGHTISTS TO PROVOKE STUDENT OUTRAGE, EMBARRASS GOVT. BELIEVED NEW ELECTIONS UNLIKELY, DUE EXPENSE CAMPAIGNING.

5. KOREA

NYT'S MALCOLM (SEOUL) FEATURES ROK'S MAJOR OVERSEAS CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, PRINCIPALLY IN ME. OVERSEAS CONTRACTS ALREADY IN HAND THIS YEAR WORTH 1.8 BILLION DOLS AND, BY YR'S END, POSSIBILITY SEEN OF OVER 20,000 S KOREAN WORKERS EMPLOYED ON MORE THAN 100 SUBSTANTIAL PROJECTS IN 2 DOZEN NATIONS--TOTAL 1976 CONTRACTS COULD BE NEAR 3 BILLION DOLS. PROJECTS SEEN AS VITAL FX LARNER, OUTLET FOR ROK MATERIALS/PRODUCTS, TEMPORARILY LUCRATIVE ALIKE FOR WORKERS, PROFIT-MAKER FOR INDUSTRY, AND MEANS OF WINNING ADDED SUPPORT FOR ROKG. KOREAN PLANNERS QUOTED AS CONCERNED RE OVERDEPENDENCE ON ME BUSINESS, ESTIMATED AS GOOD FOR ABOUT 10 YRS MORE, AND SAID TO HAVE JUST COMPLETED MARKET SURVEY NEXT TARGET AREA--AFRICA.
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6. JAPAN

REUTER (TOKYO) NOTES NEW AMERICAN CHANCERY, LARGEST AMEMB BLDG IN WORLD, FORMALLY OPENED IN TOKYO FRIDAY. AMB HODGSON DESCRIBED IT AS SYMBOL OF "ALLIANCE THA, WILL HOLD US TOGETHER" IN YRS TO COME; SAID ITS SIZE REFLECTS PRIORITY JAPAN OCCUPIES IN MINDS US POLICY MAKERS. MAIN GUESTS INCLUDED FORMER AMB TO JAPAN JOHNSON, JAPANESE FOM MINISTRY VICE-MIN SATO. REUTER NOTES "UGLY, BOX-LIKE" CHANCERY COST MORE THAN 12 MIL DOLS, REPLACES "CHARMING WHITE-WALLED" STRUCTURE BUILT 1931.

MIKI TELLS DIET GOJ WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS HAVE 4 SOVIET-OCCUPIED ISLANDS RETURNED TO JAPANESE SOVEREIGNTY. STATED MIG INCIDENT MUST NOT BE ALLOWED AFFECT "FRIENDLY" RELS BETWEEN JAPAN-USSR; MADE NO REFERENCE TO RECENT SOV PROTEST NOTE. PM ALSO NOTED "SOLID IMPROVEMENT" IN JAPAN'S ECONOMIC CONDITION; WARNED THAT UNLESS BILL AUTHORIZING BOND ISSUE TO COVER BUDGET DEFICIT PASSED, WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE IMPLEMENT BUDGET IN FULL (REUTER TOKYO).

MITI MIN KOMOTO, COMMENTING AT FRIDAY PRESS CONF ON US V IN

DUSTRY'S REQUEST FOR CURBS ON JAPANESE COLOR TV IMPORTS, CAUTIONED JAPANESE EXPORTERS AVOID DISRUPTING OVERSEAS MARKETS WITH SALES. SAID MITI HAS NO INTENTION IMPOSE OFFICIAL CONTROLS, BUT ADDED HE EXPECTS EXPORTERS ACT WITH PRUDENCE (REUTER TOKYO).

SUN'S SEIDEN REPORTS GUEST CONDUCTOR SERGIU COMMISSIONA, OF BALT SYMPHONY, LED "TRIUMPHANT" PERFORMANCE W/TOKYO SYMPHONY AT CONCLUSION 3-WK TOUR.

BRAZILIAN GOVT'S CONTROLLED RESOURCES CO, CIA VALE DO RIO DOCE, ANNOUNCES LONG-TERM IRON/PULP SUPPLY CONTRACTS W/JAPANESE CONCERNS VALUED MORE THAN 8 BILLION DOLS. MEMBERS JAPANESE GROUP INCLUDE NIPPON, KOBE, NISSHIN, NAKAYAMA, AND KAWASAKI STEEL FIRMS (METZ, WSJ).

CITIBANK ECON DEPT 50-NATION SURVEY, INCL JAPAN, FINDS EBBING INFLATION, PURCHASING POWER GAIN. IN ADDITION, UNCLASSIFIED

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JAPAN EXPECTED HAVE ONLY 1 PCT INCREASE IN UNIT LABOR COSTS FOR 1976 (NYT).

7. PHILIPPINES

AMEMB SPOKESMAN SAYS SEARCH PARTIES IN MOUNTAINOUS JUNGLE AREA EAST OF MANILA FOUND WRECKAGE OF LIGHT AIRCRAFT CARRYING SENIOR FON DIPLOMATS WHICH DISAPPEARED 12 DAYS AGO; APPEARED BE NO SURVIVORS (REUTER MANILA).

VOLCANIC ISLAND IN LAKE TAAL BEGAN ACTIVITY 9/23 AFTER 2-DAY LULL, RENEWING FEARS OF SERIOUS ERUPTION. SEVERAL THOUSAND EVACUATED TO MAINLAND (REUTER MANILA, CHITRIB, WP).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

8. CHINA

NYT'S BUTTERFIELD (HK) SAYS PRC NEW LEADERS, WITH REPEATED CALLS TO CARRY ON "CAUSE" LEFT BY MAO, SEEM TRYING ASSURE CHINESE PEOPLE THAT IN ALL UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING CHAIRMAN'S DEATH, AT LEAST HIS POLICIES WILL REMAIN IN FORCE FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE. BUT NOTES MAO'S "CAUSE" OFTEN CHALLENGED DURING HIS LIFETIME -- RECALLS THAT TO JUDGE BY EXTRAORDINARY DAYLONG ANTI-GOVT PEKING DEMONSTRATION LAST APRIL, CHOU'S PRAGMATIST APPROACH MAY BE MORE POPULAR THAN MAO'S. BUTTERFIELD BRIEFLY SUMMARIZES MAO'S MAJOR PROGRAMS (EDUCATION, SOCIAL POLICY, MEDICINE, PARTY LEADERSHIP, ECONOMY, ARMY, FOPOLICY)AND SOME CRITICISM OF THEM.

WP FINDS ROC'S PLEDGE ABSTAIN FROM NUKE FUEL REPROCESSING

"ALTOGETHER SALUTARY," SINCE IT MATERIALLY DIMINISHES
WHATEVER POSSIBILITY EXISTED THAT TAIPEI MIGHT BE
EDGING TOWARD BUILDING OWN NUKE BOMB, ALSO REMOVES
MAJOR SOURCE POTENTIAL DISRUPTION FROM US-ROC RELS.
TAIWAN PLEDGE IS STATEMENT OF FAITH IN US, UNDERLINING

BOTH ISLAND'S DEPENDENCE ON US FOR ITS SECURITY AND US
RESPONSIBILITY, CURRENTLY
EXPRESSED IN TREATY FORM, FOR ROC'S SECURITY. NOTES,
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WITH INTEREST THAT, WHILE MONTHS OF QUIET US DIPLOMACY
DID NOT SUCCEED EXTRACTING TAIPEI'S PLEDGE, WAS SOON
FORTHCOMING AFTER INFO ABOUT REPROCESSING ACTIVITIES
LEAKED. IN THIS CASE, LEAKS AIDED DIPLOMACY.

CSM'S SCHMIDT POINTS OUT ROC DISAVOWAL IT HAS
INTENTION DEVELOP NUKE WEAPONS SHARPLY CONTRADICTS
US INTELL EVIDENCE THAT SMALL FACILITY UNDERGOING TESTS
AT LUNG TAN. REVIEWS IKLE SFR SUBCMTE TESTIMONY WEDNESDAY.

9. INDOCHINA

MEMBER VN VETS AGAINST WAR (PHINQ) IN LTR KNOCKS US
REFUSAL ADMIT VN TO UN, CALLS MIAS VICTIMS "U.S. RULING
CLASS WAR" IN VN. STATES US SHOULD VOTE FOR VN ADMISSION,
STOP USING MIAS AS POLITICAL PAWNS, PAY REPARATIONS.

10. KOREA

PHINQ, FOCUSING ON REV. MOON'S DC 9/18 "GOD BLESS AMERICA
FESTIVAL" ADDRESS THEME ("AMERICA MUST ACCEPT HER
GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY. ARMED WITH GODISM, SHE MUST
FREE THE COMMUNIST WORLD..."), HITS MOON FOR
"DANGEROUSLY BELLICOSE" POLITICAL-RELIGIOUS MIX. URGES
HIRC INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF UNIFICATION CHURCH
ASSETS "SIGNIFICANTLY DEVOTED TO POLITICAL MANIPULATION
ON BEHALF OF SOUTH KOREA'S TOTALITARIAN GOVERNMENT,
OR TO PROMOTING A WORLD HOLOCAUST."

MOON TAKES TWO-PAGE NYT AD TO REPEAT TRANSCRIPT OF
FESTIVAL ADDRESS AND THANK "THE 300,000 OF YOU WHO
ATTENDED (N.B. OFFICIALS ESTIMATED CROWD AT SOME
50,000).

MACKENZIE (REUTER, TOKYO) NOTES DEARTH RELIABLE NEWS RE
NK AND APPARENTLY INCREASED ISOLATION PYONGYANG
SINCE 8/18 PANMUNJOM INCIDENT. REPORTS SPECULATION
THAT UN RESOLUTION WITHDRAWAL POSSIBLY CAUSED BY
MULTIPLE FACTORS, INCLUDING: DECREASE NON-ALIGNED
SUPPORT DUE NK HARD LINE AND REACTION PANMUNJOM; INTERNAL
POWER STRUGGLE INVOLVING KIM CHONG-IL SUCCESSION;
UNCERTAINTY RE PRC AFTER MAO'S DEATH; AND ECONOMIC
DIFFICULTIES, INCLUDING SERIOUS DEBT DEFAULT. MACKENZIE

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SAYS "SOME ANALYSTS" FEEL REACTION TO PANMUNJOM ATTACK AND
NEED RETHINK DIPLOMATIC STANCE PROMPTED INCREASED NK
ISOLATION, POSSIBLY LEADING TO UN MOVE. CITES ROKG
WELCOME WITHDRAWAL ACTION, BUT ADDS NO SIGN PYONGYANG
WILL LISTEN TO SEOUL URGINGS FOR RESUMPTION DIALOGUE.

11. LOS

SUN CALLS DEADLOCK CONF "DISASTER AT SEA." NOTES NATIONS
RUSHING CLAIMS PRIOR TO NEXT MAY'S SESSION. NOTES
MORE AGGRESSIVE 3RD-WORLD COUNTRIES MADE CONF IDEOLOGICAL
BATTLEGROUND WITH DEVELOPED WORLD, WHILE PRC/USSR
USED IT TO BASH EACH OTHER. SAYS SECSTATE OFFERED
REASONABLE COMPROMISE ON DEEP SEA MINING ISSUE, BUT
SO FAR UNACCEPTED. ADVOCATES INTENSE DIPLOMACY BEFORE
IMPASSE HARDENS, CONFLICTING CLAIMS LEAD TO WARS.

CSM SEES BASIC DISPUTE AS SEABEDS, WITH RIFT OVER
ISSUE DUE MUTUAL DISTRUST. BELIEVES SOME CHANGE IN
ATTITUDES ON BOTH SIDES NEEDED IF AGREEMENT TO BE
REACHED; 3RD WORLD MUST GIVE PRIVATE FIRMS ACCESS TO
SEABED FOR DECADE OR 2, WHILE DEVELOPED NATIONS SHOULD
MAKE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR GETTING INTL FIRM READY
TO GO. OPINES MUCH CAN BE DONE TO MEND SPLIT BETWEEN
NOW, NEXT MAY'S SESSION. ADVISES SECSTATE GIVE LOS
CONF REGULAR ATTN, INSTEAD SHOWCASE APPEARANCES, WARNINGS
US UNILATERAL ACTION IF TREATY NOT FORTHCOMING.

12. GENERAL

VAN GELDER (NYT) FAVORABLY REVIEWS FRENCH DOCUMENTARY
"THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE," THAT DEALS WITH OPIUM TRADE.
NOTES FILM ARGUES PERSUASIVELY THAT PROBLEM IS POLITICAL
NOT POLICE; AREA IS REDOUBT OF SHA; REBELS, KMT ARMY
REMNANTS. KISSINGER

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